Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the following claims in the case as follows. Cancel claims 1-2, 4-14, 16, 23, 27, 29, and 32-34. Claims 3, 18, and 22 were previously canceled. Amend claims 15 and 26 as follows.

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a software control agent, comprising:

automatically selecting based upon a predetermined criterion one of a plurality of clients to submit the user request to for service of the request, each client comprising a plurality of queue types, each queue type having an individual scheme for prioritizing jobs; ~~and~~

sending the user request over a communication channel to the selected client~~.~~;

instructing the agent to relocate to a known agent endpoint by a system administrator;

stopping to accept new job requests by the agent;

waiting for pending/current request relocations to finish by the agent;

flushing in-process requests to a state storage system by the agent;

requesting the new endpoint to instantiate a new agent by the agent;

waiting while the new agent populates its database with the data from the state storage system by the agent;

sending a message to all federated agents that the agent for a domain is relocated to the new agent by a first agent;

sending a message to all clients in the domain that the agent is relocated to the new agent by the first agent; and

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> sending a request to the first agent's endpoint to close the first agent by the
> new agent.

16   (Canceled)

17   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising maintaining an awareness
of the state of the selected client.

18   (Canceled)

19   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising providing an agent endpoint module
configured to allow the mobility of an agent from one system to another.

20   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising communicating and interacting with
a plurality of agents.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising relocating a user requested job from
one client to another.

22-23 (Canceled)

24   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising automatically relocating the user request from the selected client within a network to another client within the network.

25   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein automatically relocating the user request from the selected client within the network to another client within the network further comprises:

                instructing the selected client to relocate the user request by a system administrator or agent;

                sending the user request to a state storage system by the selected client;

                sending instructions to the new client to access the user request from the state storage system by the agent;

                accessing the user request from the state storage system by the new client; and

                relocating the user request to the new client.

26.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium readable by a processor and to perform a method of operating a software control agent, comprising:

                receiving a user request;

                automatically selecting based upon a predetermined criterion one of a plurality of clients to submit the user request to for service of the user request, each client comprising a plurality of queue types, each queue type having an individual scheme for prioritizing jobs; and

                sending the user request over a communication channel to the selected client.

instructing the agent to relocate to a known agent endpoint by a system administrator;

stopping to accept new job requests by the agent;

waiting for pending/current request relocations to finish by the agent;

flushing in-process requests to a state storage system by the agent;

requesting the new endpoint to instantiate a new agent by the agent;

waiting while the new agent populates its database with the data from the state storage system by the agent;

sending a message to all federated agents that the agent for a domain is relocated to the new agent by a first agent;

sending a message to all clients in the domain that the agent is relocated to the new agent by the first agent; and

sending a request to the first agent's endpoint to close the first agent by the new agent.

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Previously Presented)   The article of manufacture of claim 26, further comprising maintaining an awareness of the state of the selected client.

29.   (Canceled)

30.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 26, further comprising providing an agent endpoint module configured to allow the mobility of an agent from one system to another.

31.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 26, further comprising automatically relocating a user requested job from one client within a network to another client within the network.

32-34. (Canceled)

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein each client comprises at least three queue types.

36.   (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein each client comprises at least three queue types.